



# IACAC NEWSLETTER

**International Association of Civil Aviation Chaplains**

February 2014

Dear Friends and Colleagues

When we were in Atlanta I spoke about a vision for our organisation, but what is our vision for IACAC?

For IACAC this may mean putting together a vision statement which is very similar to putting together a flight or travel plan. We know where we start from and where we wish to go, but the main part is how do we get there, or maybe like an artist or a photographer who is given a commission and visualises how the finished painting or picture will appear to the eye of the beholder but only after many sketches or photos have been taken.

A vision statement refers to an explanation, usually in written form, of what an organisation or person wants to be at some future point in time. The goals have to be identified providing direction to activities and motivating people to move forward and, for IACAC, to take account of our history.

A strategic vision is a broad term used to describe one of the essential elements of an overall strategic planning endeavour.

Essentially a vision is the identification of the ultimate aim or purpose of an organisation.

Within this context, the strategic vision helps to set the parameters for the development of planning specific steps to go about making that vision come true, since it establishes the general direction that an organisation will pursue. A workable vision clearly looks beyond where an organisation is today and determines where we, as owners, want IACAC to be at some point in the future.

In order to have a properly crafted strategic vision, several key elements must be considered in order for that vision to be truly viable. One of these elements is that the vision must be realistic. This means that the vision must be specific rather than a vague idea about the future. For example, setting a

vision to have a chaplaincy in every airport in the world may be a bit broad, whereas a vision to increase chaplaincy by five percent over the next three years does have a focus and the potential to be workable.

One final characteristic of a strategic vision is that there is room for adjusting strategies when and as needed without changing the ultimate goal itself. This built-in flexibility makes it possible to alter policies and procedures when necessary to keep the momentum going, introduce new ideas and make improvements and any other strategies that will move the organisation forward towards achieving the vision.

These kinds of vision statements are important because they indicate the primary goals an organisation has. They don't always lay out a precise plan on how to achieve those goals, but outline objectives clearly, making it possible to come up with strategies or techniques to move forward in a very specific direction. Their main purpose therefore is to orient everything an organisation does. A true strategic vision is attractive, in that all of us involved with IACAC can identify some benefit from pursuing the vision

In connection with this we, as an organisation need to look at is our constitution which belongs to all of us. Therefore as members, the Board would appreciate any of your thoughts, comments, ideas or suggested changes to the constitution that will enable IACAC to fulfil its vision which is yours too.

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## **IACAC ANNUAL 2014 CONFERENCE**

This year our annual conference will be held in Amsterdam and our colleagues at Schiphol Airport will be our hosts. This year the conference program will explore the value added to the airport by the presence of the chaplaincy. Links such as human trafficking from previous conferences and the experiences of other airport chaplains will also be explored. The Delta Care Team have been invited to construct a follow up program from their Atlanta presentation. More detail of the conference program will be available on our website as it becomes available.

Conference registration and payment will again be made online through the website [www.iacac.info](http://www.iacac.info)

This year the conference is in August, earlier than in past years so please make a note of the date and plan to join us in Amsterdam.

Conference Date: 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2014  
[5 nights]

Cost : Single- € 645

Double/Twin Share - € 435

Post Conference Tour: 24<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014 [4 nights]

Cost: Single- € 699

Double/Twin Share - € 530

The Post Conference Tour will be a series of day trips using the conference hotel as a base.

Accommodation for the Conference and Post Conference Tour will be at the iAm Hotel, situated close to Schiphol Airport and easily accessed by the airport shuttle bus.

Amsterdam is an old and beautiful city and our conference hosts are preparing a warm welcome around an interesting and stimulating program.

Conference invitations will go out at the end of March. We are looking forward to your attendance in Amsterdam.

### **REFLECTION**

During the Atlanta Conference some time was set aside for discussion based around the following questions.

- How my Chaplaincy operates- Structure, volunteers, Full/Part time staff, Airport security access, Relationship with airport authority
- A most difficult period in my Chaplaincy- define the problem, why was it difficult?

- A most satisfying time my Chaplaincy - what happened and why was it so satisfying?
- How do you think you can more effectively serve the airport workforce and ways to make your services known to them

Despite the short time available for groups to discuss these four points, participants found the time valuable and were able to share with their colleagues their own experiences and learn about other practices around the world.

Whilst these questions were meant to stimulate discussion between chaplains from different airports they well could stimulate discussion within your own chaplaincy team to explore and consolidate your work. An individual chaplain could use the questions to reflect on their own situation.

During the Amsterdam Conference it is hoped to have the opportunity for chaplains to learn from each other and share ideas and concerns.

If you have any suggestions about what could be discussed or questions you would like to ask please send them to our Vice President, Rev Howie Adan [vp@iacac.info](mailto:vp@iacac.info)

### **NEWS FROM OUR CHAPLAINCIES**

News from Manila that major renovations are underway to link all parts of the airport. It is likely the chapel will be relocated temporarily during the work. Fr Steve Teston and Rebecca send their greetings to all their friends in IACAC.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Grace Mang'ula from Nairobi whose husband passed away at Christmas time after a long illness. Early in her appointment to the airport, Grace spent time in the UK working with the chaplains at London Luton and London Gatwick.

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the death of Fr. Declan Doyle, former chaplain at Dublin Airport who passed away on the 12<sup>th</sup> February. Our sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

Never reach out your hand unless you are willing to extend your arm. Pope Paul VI